determined never to adopt. He insisted on his original scheme of removing the army down the Bay, and advancing towards Richmond from the seaboard; and the more difficulties that were thrown in the way of the execution of his plan by his own Government or by the operations of the enemy, the inure obstinately he adhered to it. When a project had once become fixed in his imagination, he remained faithful to it, no matter what changes might take place in the circumstances and conditions which existed when the project first took shape in bin mind; his predilection for his original scheme was so strong that he could not give to subsequently occurring facts, even when they rendered his scheme a wholly different thing from that which he hud originally proposed to himself, their actual value?. He was a man who would shut his eyes to inconvenient truths, and would prefer to imagine things other than they really were, if to do otherwise would involve a reconsideration of his views and a reconstruction of his plans,

Now the advantages which Fort Monroe poBsenHed as a base of operations, and which the Peninsula possessed as a line of operations, hud been materially diminished by the advent of the *MerrmiM* on the scene on the 8th of March. The

Jlfarrlr/iac, a wooden frigate, had been sunk when the Gosport navy-yard was abandoned in April, 1861. The Confederates had raised her, and had given her a formidable battery. They had completely rebuilt her* Her sides sloped, tip from the water-line and were covered with heavy iron plates. She was roofed **in**